

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 1999

Natural soda ash production in June was 859,000 metric tons, 3% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 303,000 tons, 18% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June was 1.1 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in May was 519,000 tons,

5% lower than the May 1998 level of 545,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in May 1999 were 275,000 tons and 6,600 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through May 1999, compared with those of the corresponding period in 1998, were as follows: production 2% lower, imports 2% higher, exports 12% lower, ending stocks 20% higher, and apparent consumption 2% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

Period	Soda ash (Thousand metric tons)		Wyoming trona production (thousand metric tons)
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
1998:			
May	899	308	1,410
June	838	319	1,410
July	842	302	1,370
August	833	332	1,300
September	849	288	1,070
October	831	322	1,320
November	858	311	1,390
December	840	273	1,430
Total (January-June)	5,090	XX	8,670
Year total	10,100	XX	16,500
1999:			
January	835	296	1,490
February	749	320	1,230
March	877	297	1,480
April	833	272	1,320
May	886	371	1,450
June	859	303	1,100
Total	5,040	XX	8,080

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 1999 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH, BY COUNTRY, IN MAY 1999 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	53,900	\$5,930	\$110
Brazil	27,800	3,560	128
Venezuela	23,100	3,860	167
Korea, Republic of	20,700	2,540	123
Indonesia	19,000	2,400	126
Canada	18,200	1,610	88
Malaysia	17,500	2,550	146
Thailand	17,300	2,220	128
Saudi Arabia	15,000	1,460	97
Argentina	14,000	1,890	135
Other	48,600	6,300	130
Total	275,000	34,300	125

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ June 1999 data not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1999 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	Total	% of total
Argentina	2,680	13,800	--	--	14,000	30,500	2
Australia	6,000	--	5,000	--	6,000	17,000	1
Belgium	--	--	18,100	14,800	12,000	44,900	3
Bolivia	--	150	--	450	--	600	(3/)
Brazil	24,000	21,900	--	12,000	27,800	85,700	6
Canada	21,200	24,800	24,500	19,100	18,200	108,000	8
Chile	--	21,100	--	24,500	--	45,600	3
China	4,500	--	4,500	--	4,700	13,700	1
Colombia	11,000	20,400	--	--	--	31,300	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	5,000	--	5,000	(3/)
France	--	30,000	15,100	15,400	--	60,500	4
Germany	--	--	185	--	114	299	(3/)
Guatemala	65	3,040	82	2,040	82	5,310	(3/)
Indonesia	16,000	--	20,000	20,500	19,000	75,500	6
Jamaica	--	16	16	2,030	--	2,060	(3/)
Japan	27,500	36,100	10,500	37,900	7,040	119,000	9
Korea, Republic of	32,000	3,280	26,400	170	20,700	82,600	6
Malaysia	--	18,100	--	--	17,500	35,600	3
Mexico	38,100	37,800	44,700	31,300	53,900	206,000	15
Norway	--	--	--	23	--	23	(3/)
Peru	--	3,100	--	3,450	--	6,550	(3/)
Philippines	--	11,000	--	10,000	8,000	29,000	2
Saudi Arabia	15,000	--	14,000	--	15,000	44,000	3
Singapore	--	--	3,500	--	--	3,500	(3/)
South Africa	14,900	--	17,000	--	--	31,900	2
Spain	--	16,200	11,200	33,100	--	60,500	4
Suriname	19	58	19	--	--	96	(3/)
Taiwan	15,000	23,100	4,300	22,600	--	64,900	5
Thailand	13,400	14,000	23,400	21,500	17,300	89,600	7
Trinidad and Tobago	--	2,900	--	--	2,830	5,730	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	6,000	--	--	6,000	(3/)
United Kingdom	147	--	20	20	7,020	7,210	1
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	794	794	(3/)
Venezuela	18,500	--	--	--	23,100	41,600	3
Total	260,000	301,000	248,000	276,000	275,000	1,360,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ June 1999 data not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
1998:		
May	7,060	\$894
June	7,040	987
July	7,450	955
August	7,350	938
September	8,050	1,030
October	6,260	824
November	6,870	906
December	6,550	827
Total (January-May)	33,300	4,330
Year total	82,900	10,800
1999: 3/		
January	3,910	512
February	6,620	762
March	8,810	1,030
April	7,990	924
May	6,600	761
Total	33,900	3,990

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

3/ June 1999 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U. S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
1998:						
May	899,000	7,060	312,000	49,800	--	545,000
June	838,000	7,040	304,000	11,000	--	531,000
July	842,000	7,450	360,000	--	16,300	506,000
August	833,000	7,350	222,000	30,100	--	588,000
September	849,000	8,050	347,000	--	43,900	554,000
October	831,000	6,260	244,000	33,200	--	560,000
November	858,000	6,870	336,000	--	10,400	540,000
December	840,000	6,550	307,000	--	37,900	578,000
Total (January-May)	4,250,000	33,300	1,540,000	48,700	--	2,700,000
Year total	10,100,000	82,900	3,660,000	14,500	--	6,550,000
1999:						
January	835,000	3910	260000	22,900	--	556,000
February	749,000	6620	301000	23,400	--	432,000
March	877,000	8810	248000	--	23,200	661,000
April	833,000	7990	276000	--	24,500	590,000
May	886,000	6600	275000	99,000	--	519,000
June	859,000	NA	NA	--	67,800	NA
Total (January-May)	4,180,000	33,900	1,360,000	97,700	--	2,760,000

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.